

# PROCLAMATION

## Anent the Poor.



VILLIAM by the Grace of GOD, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland Defender of the Faith ; To

Macers of Our

Privy Council, Messengers at Arms, Our Shireffs in that Part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute, Greeting : THAT where the many good and laudable Laws made for maintaining the Poor, and suppressing of Beggars, Vagabounds and idle Persons, have not hitherto taken effect, partly, because there were no Houses provided for them to reside in ; And partly, because the Persons to whom the Execution of the saids Laws, was committed, have been negligent in their Duty : For Remeid whereof, We with Advice of the Lords of Our Privy Council, Ordain the Proclamations formerly Emitted of the Date the Eleventh of August one thousand six hundred nintie two, the 29. of August one thousand six hundred nintie three, and last of July one thousand six hundred nintie four ratified & approved by the twenty ninth Act of the sixth Session of Our current Parliament to be Re-printed, and put to full and vigorous Execution in all Points ; And in Order to make the saids Proclamations the more effectual, We with Advice foresaid, revive the Eighteenth Act of the third Session, Parliament second, Charles second, in so far as concerns the providing Correction Houses for the receiving and intertaining of Beggars, Vagabonds and idle persons within the Burghs therein mentioned, viz. One Correction House at the Burgh of Edinburgh for these of the Town and Shire of Edinburgh, one at the Burgh of Haddingtoun, for these of the Shire of Haddingtoun, one at Dunee for the Shire of Berwick, one at Jedburgh for the Shire of Roxburgh, one at the Burgh of Selkirk, for the Shire of Selkirk, one at the Burgh of Peebles for the Shire of Peebles, one at Glasgow for the Shire of Lanark, one at the Burgh of Drumfries for the Shire of Drumfries, one at the Burgh of Wigtoun for the Shire of Wigtoun, one at the Burgh of Kirkcudbright for the Stewartrie of Kirkcudbright, one at the Burgh of Air for the Shire of Air, one at the Burgh of Dumbarton for the Shire of Dumbarton, one at the Burgh of Rothsay for the Shire of Bute, one at Paisley for the Shire of Renfrew, one at Stirling for the Shires of Stirling & Clackmannan, one at Linlithgow for the Shire of Linlithgow, one at Culrois for these twelve Paroches in Perth Shire, belonging to the Presbytery of Dumblaine, one at the Burgh of Perth for the rest of the Shire of Perth, one at Montrose for the Shire of Kincardin, one at the Burgh of Aberdeen for the Shire thereof, one at Inverness for the Shires of Inverness, Ross and Cromarty, one at the Burgh of Elgine for the Shires of Elgine and Nairn, one at Inverary for the Shire of Argyle, four in the Shire of Fife, viz. one at St. Andrews, one at Comrie, one at Kirkcaldy, and one at Dunfermling, for the four ordinary Divisions of that Shire, one at Dundie for the Shire of Forfar, one at the Burgh of Banff for the Shire of Banff, one at the Burgh of Dornoch for the Shire of Sutherland, one at Wick for the Shire of Caithness, and one at Kirkwall for the Shires of Orkney and Zetland ; Each of which Houses, shall have a large Close sufficiently inclosed for keeping in the said Poor People, that they be not necessitated to be alwise within Doors to the hurt or hazard of their Health : And ordains the Magistrats of the said Burghs, to provide the Correction Houses, and appoint Masters and Overseers of the same by Advice of the Presbyteries, or such as they shall appoint, who may set those Poor Persons to Work, and that betwixt and the first day of October next ; Under the Pain of five hundred Merks Quarterly untill Correction Houses be provided conform to the said Act. But in place of the Commissioners of Excise mentioned in the said Act, We with Advice foresaid, Require and Command the Shireffs of the Shires and their Deputs, to put the said Act in Execution within their respective Shires, as to every thing that by the said Act was committed to the Commissioners of Excise ; And ordains the saids Shireffs and their Deputs to give account of their Diligence herein to the Lords of Our Privy Council, betwixt and the first day of December next : Under the pain every one of them of five hundred Merks who shall failzie and neglect to do the same, to be employed for the use of the Poor of the Shire, and to be lyaible for one hundred Pounds weekly after the said Day before they return an account of their Diligence to Our Privy Council to be employed for the use foresaid, and ordains the several Paroches within every Shire and District to send their Poor to the Magistrats of the Towns where the Correction Houses are, to be provided against the first day of November next ; That they may be put into the saids Correction Houses, and in case the Correction Houses be not ready to receive the Poor against the said Day, Ordains the Poor to be sent to be maintained by the Magistrats of the Burgh who were to provide the saids Correction Houses, and that ay and while the Correction Houses be provided, and that by and attour the foresaid Penalties imposed by the said Act of Parliament, in case of failzie of providing the saids Correction Houses against the said Day, and in the mean time before the saids Correction Houses be provided ; Ordains the saids Acts and Proclamations of Our Privy Council to be put to full Execution : And because there may some Questions arise in putting the said Acts in Execution, for which there can be no general Rule set down in respect of the different Conditions and Circumstances of several Places of the Countrey ; Therefore that the said Act may be more effectually and with greater Expedition put to Execution, We with Advice foresaid, give Power and Warrant to the Minister and Elders of each Paroch with Advice of the Heretors, or so many of them as shall meet and concur with the Minister and Elders upon Intimation to be made by the Minister from the pulpit upon the Sabbath Day before, to decide & determine all Questions that may arise in the respective Paroches, in Relation to the Ordering & Disposing of the Poor, in so far as is not determined by the Laws & Acts of Parliament, & the former Acts of Our Privy Council which are ratified by the Act of Parliament foresaid. OUR WILL IS HEREOF, and We Charge you strictly and Command, that incontinent these Our Letters seen, ye pass to the Mercat-cross of Edinburgh, and remanent Mercat-crosses of the Head-Burghs of the several Shires and Stewartries within this Kingdom, and thereat in Our Name and Authority by open Proclamation make Intimation hereof, that none may pretend Ignorance : And ordains these presents to be Printed.

Given under our Signet at Edinburgh the third Day of March, and of Our Reign the ninth Year. 1698

Per Actum Dominorum Secreti Concilii

GILB. ELLIOT, Cls Sti. Concilii.

### GOD Save the King.